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12 April 1954

THE ANGLO-IRANIAN OIL DISPUTE

- I. Three-man mission representing international oil consortium
arrived in Tehran on 11 April.

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Government aware it will

probably collapse without settlement.

- B. Opposition to any settlement comes from Communists,
many rightists, and leftists.

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- C. Ambassador Henderson estimates negotiations will take six
weeks to three months. Difficulties inherent in any
negotiations with Iran, particularly on oil, may well
prolong discussions.

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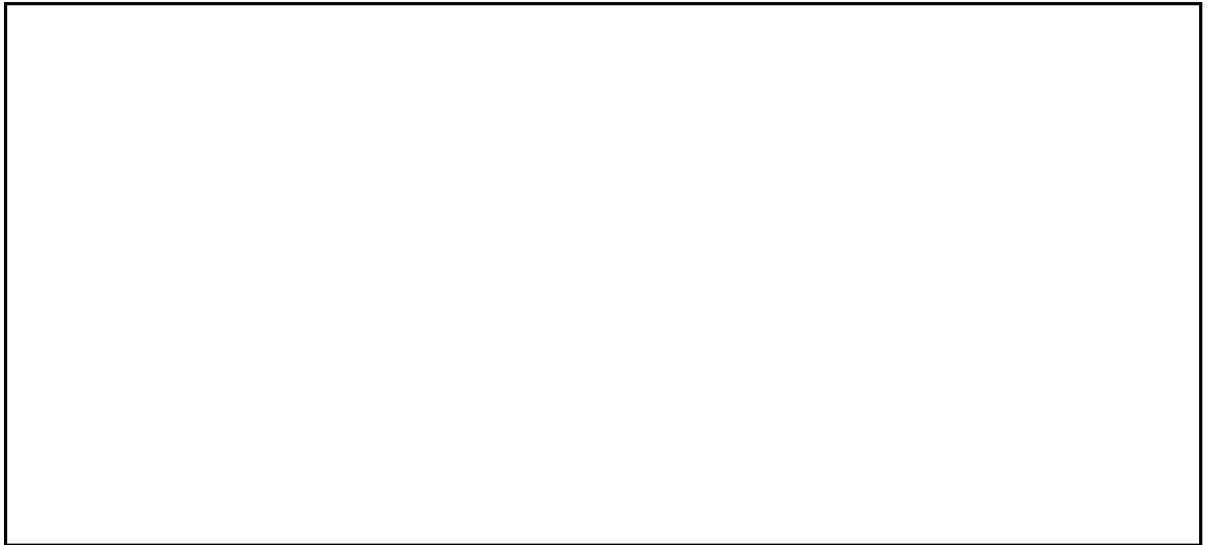
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- C. In spite of attempts of Herbert Hoover, Jr. to explain international oil situation to Iranian officials, most of them probably do not have genuine realization of difficulties involved in restoring Iran's oil to world markets. Unrealistic attitudes and demands may be expected because of this. Characteristic Iranian tactics of delay and bargaining in any negotiation makes speedy settlement unlikely and promises discouragement to consortium representatives.
- D. Thorough and often reckless discussion of oil negotiations in Majlis may develop, giving opposition opportunity to organize. Majlis zeal in protecting Iran's rights makes

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it almost certain that any commercially acceptable agreement
will meet opposition from some quarter.

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